



Work Session Questions for July 11, 2018 Housing and Equity Work Session

Completing this document lays the groundwork for completing actions in the Sustainable CT “Healthy, Efficient and Diverse Housing” and “Inclusive and Equitable Community Impacts” categories. Certification requires completion of one action from each of Sustainable CT’s nine categories.

When applying for certification, if you choose, you may submit this document in lieu of Worksheet 2 for [8.1. Design and Implement a Housing Needs Assessment](#) and in lieu of the Sustainable CT Equity Toolkit for [9.1. Optimize for Equity](#). For your ease, please submit the same document for each of these two actions.

Questions

Setting Goals

1. What does your Sustainability Team define as the three most important equitable community outcomes related to understanding your community’s housing needs (include possible community indicators that measure these outcomes)?

Analyzing Data

Analyzing the data provided in your Partnership for Strong Communities Housing Data Profile and other relevant data sources, please the questions below.

2. Define diversity within your community. Specifically, what are the demographics of the target groups or those living, working, or socializing in your community? (for example, race, ethnicity, age, gender, physical disability, retired/working, vehicle/commuting needs, shift worker, dependents/not, homeowner/renter, income level, other)
3. Which geographic areas/neighborhoods in your community most require an understanding/analysis of housing needs?

4. What additional data would be helpful in analyzing your community's housing needs and their impacts on equity and how can you obtain it?
5. Overall, how do you *view* the age, income, racial, ethnic and other demographic indicators of your municipality? Please compare your assessment of your municipality with surrounding municipalities, your region and the state overall.
6. Assess whether your municipality is projected to get older, younger or stay about the same, and whether your current housing stock will be affordable and appropriate for your anticipated age groups, or whether you foresee the need to provide new housing choices.
7. Assess your residential grand list, whether it has grown in value, fallen in value or stayed about the same and what factors in the housing market (supply, demand, mix, those factors in surrounding municipalities) have had an impact on that grand list.
8. Assess your municipality's residential zoning and determine whether it allows for a variety of housing choice creation, should the municipality want to add to the spectrum of choices, or whether lot size, floor area ratio and other factors limit your municipality's housing creation ability.
9. Assess your current housing choices: how wide a spectrum of unit types (single-family detached, duplex, multifamily, mixed-use, etc.) your municipality currently has, where they are generally located, and whether a diversity of housing types could be expanded in areas of municipality.
10. From your housing data profile, determine the number and percentage of income-restricted housing units (affordable housing), their type (single-family, multifamily), their location (confined to an area

of municipality, with/without access to transit, jobs, healthcare, shopping, recreation) and whether there are locations where such housing could be created. How do your municipality's numbers/percentage compare to surrounding municipalities, the region/county, and the state as a whole?

11. From your housing data profile, determine the median household income overall, for homeowners, and for renters, the median sales price and median gross rent, and how many households (renters and owners) are burdened by their housing costs (spending more than 30% of their income on housing).

Determining the Benefits and Burdens (for the work session)

12. How are your residents served by the existing housing in your community now? What are the root causes or factors of current inequities or barriers related to your community's housing needs?
13. How will you engage those most impacted? Who is collecting and contributing feedback? Have you created accessible opportunities for these groups to engage? Public engagement should prioritize opportunities to collaborate and co-create.

Determining the Benefits and Burdens (to be continued in your community)

14. What did those engaged tell you about the potential benefits, burdens, and/or community priorities related to community housing needs? What results and outcomes would they like to see? Did they identify ways to lessen any potential unintended consequences and/or to broaden any potential positive impacts?

Engage, Advance Opportunity, & Minimize Harm (to be continued in your community)

15. Given what you have learned, what steps will you take to address any remaining barriers, impacts, or unintended consequences of understanding your community's housing needs and planning for the future on equity (include immediate and long-term impacts)?
16. How will you include and benefit from diverse representation in presenting your community's housing data at a regular meeting of your community's legislative body or other public meeting?

Evaluate and Educate

17. How will you document, evaluate, and report progress to increase equity and access to services as you move toward designing and implementing a housing needs assessment?
18. How will you continue to partner and deepen relationships with impacted segments of your community to make sure your strategies to meet housing needs works for all in the long-term?
19. What challenges did you encounter while considering how to optimize for equity in understanding your community's housing needs, and how might you learn from them for future applications?